

# THE NEW FLYING-BOAT WORKS OF



# Saunders-Roe Ltd

at

EAST COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT

**S**AUNDERS-ROE, LIMITED, has grown from foundations out of the old firm of S. E. Saunders, boat builders, established in 1830. In later years the firm became famous for its fast light marine craft, and produced many of the international winners, including the late Sir Henry Segrave's Miss England II.

A pioneer in the type of aircraft which in later years has been its speciality, it was in 1912 that a Saunders' hull was fitted to the Sopwith amphibian which was the first successful aircraft in the world of this particular type, and which succeeded in winning the Mortimer-Singer prize for ability to make a series of landings and take-offs from water and land.

Early in 1929 Sir Alliott Verdon-Roe and the late Mr. John Lord joined the company, which was reorganised, and the name changed from S. E. Saunders, Limited, to Saunders-Roe, Limited. Specialising in amphibian aircraft for service and civil use, the Saro Cloud and Cutty Sark were outstanding examples of the firm's products, the former being adopted and is still in use for Royal Air Force training.

Concurrent with the production of these amphibians, large type flying boats for R.A.F. use were developed, and in 1931 the Saro A-7 established the first non-stop flight from Gibraltar to Plymouth.

The latest development, known as the "London," is now in use as one of the standard modern flying boats of the R.A.F., and is at present in quantity production for the R.A.F. at the new and enlarged works described in these pages. The programme for these works also embraces extensive research, experimentation and development of new types for future service and civil requirements.

In addition to the aircraft side of the business, Saunders-Roe's shipyard has been modernised in its equipment, and is busily engaged in turning out motor yachts and aircraft marine equipment in the form of seaplane tenders, loading scows and folding boats.

The plywood factory, further up the River Medina, provides the third branch of the firm's activities. Working full time and overtime, this section has taken full advantage of the industrial revival in the use of plywood products.